

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PLAYERS' CONCUSSION INJURY LITIGATION

No. 2:12-md-02323-AB
MDL No. 2323

Kevin Turner and Shawn Wooden, on behalf
of themselves and others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

National Football League and NFL Properties, LLC,
successor-in-interest to NFL Properties, Inc.,

Defendants.

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

Locks Law Firm

v.

SPID 100015454 (K.E.)

Attorney Lien Dispute

Case No. 1513

EXPLANATION AND ORDER

DAVID R. STRAWBRIDGE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

May 17, 2021

Before the Court is a Notice of Attorney's Lien ("Lien") and a Petition to Establish Attorney's Lien seeking attorney's fees and costs from any Monetary Claim to be paid to Settlement Class Member ("SCM") K.E., who was issued a Notice of Monetary Award Claim Determination on October 19, 2020. The lien was filed in July 2019 by Locks Law Firm ("Locks"). The SCM is currently represented by Langfitt Garner PLLC ("Langfitt"). The Claims Administrator issued to Langfitt a Notice of this lien on April 14, 2020.

The District Court referred all Petitions for individual attorney's liens to this Magistrate

Judge. (Doc. No. 7746.) Rules Governing Attorneys' Liens ("Rules") were adopted on March 6, 2018 and amended on October 3, 2018. (Doc. Nos. 9760 and 10283.) Pursuant to Rule 12, Locks and Langfitt (the "Parties") were advised of their right to consent to have the Magistrate Judge issue a final Order to resolve this dispute. The Parties have consented to jurisdiction by a Magistrate Judge. Accordingly, this Explanation and Order will serve as the final decision of the Court concerning this attorney lien dispute.¹

The Parties have reached an agreement as to the allocation of the attorney fee in this case and submitted a Withdrawal of Attorney's Lien Dispute (the "Withdrawal") pursuant to Rule 24. The Withdrawal agreement clearly indicates the portion of the Award that each law firm will receive and sets forth an agreement as to how to disburse any portion of the 5% holdback that may be released in the future. The agreement was negotiated by law firms that were informed and concerned about their own interest. Upon review of the Withdrawal and the contingency fee agreements, and in consideration of the Presumptive Fee Cap (Doc. No. 9863), we conclude that the fee to be paid to each firm is reasonable, does not exceed the percentage for which the parties contracted, and that the collective fees are within the percentage allowed under the 22% Presumptive Fee Cap. Accordingly, we conclude that the Withdrawal should be granted and that the Claims Administrator should be ordered to distribute the attorneys' fees to the parties as set forth in the Withdrawal.² We also have reviewed the itemized list of costs submitted by

¹ This decision does not concern the propriety of the Monetary Award to the SCM, which has already been authorized. Rather, it solely addresses the allocation of the portion of the SCM's Monetary Award that was set aside by the Claims Administrator for fees and costs of the SCM's individually-retained counsel. It is the SCM's retention of more than one attorney to represent him in this matter, and the filing of an attorney's lien by prior counsel, that has created the need for this judicial determination of the appropriate fee.

² Pursuant to the Court's Order Regarding Withholdings for Common Benefit Fund (Doc. No.

each firm and the provision of the SCM's agreements that provides for reimbursement of certain costs. We conclude that both firms are entitled to the costs asserted.

AND NOW, this 17th day of May, 2021, it is **ORDERED** that:

1. The Withdrawal of the Lien Dispute is **GRANTED**; and
2. The Claims Administrator is **ORDERED** to distribute the withheld funds in accordance with this decision, the provisions of the Settlement Agreement, and all Court Orders regarding implementation.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ David R. Strawbridge, USMJ
DAVID R. STRAWBRIDGE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

10104), 5% of the Award is currently being held in the Attorney's Fees Qualified Settlement Fund, where it must remain until further order of the Court. The Claims Administrator will ensure that if any portion of those funds are later released they will be paid pursuant to the agreed terms in the Withdrawal.